Bidding for hydro-power projects

3669. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Will the the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to allow private companies to develop hydropower projects on cost-sharing basis, instead of tariff-based bidding, bringing the private power players on par with the public sector peers;

(b) if so, whether this dispensation is currently available only to PSUs, till January, 2011;

(c) whether section 63 of the Electricity Act, 2003 provides for development of projects on competitive bidding for tariff, when the project is awarded to the lowest bidder; and

(d) if so, by when a final decision in this regard is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (b) In a recent amendment to the Tariff Policy, subject to fulfillment of certain conditions, the private sector projects have also been allowed the same dispensation of exemption from tariff based bidding upto January, 2011, as was available to public sector projects.

(c) Section 63 of the Electricity Act, 2003 already provides that the appropriate commission shall adopt the tariff if such tariff has been determined through a transparent process of bidding in accordance with the guidelines issued by the Central Government.

(d) Does not arise in view of (c) above.

Welfare of dalits

3670. SHRI PENUMALLI MADHU: Will the the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that more Dalits, both in urban and rural India, depend on wage labour, due to the absence of land reforms;

(b) if so, the steps taken to better their- plight; and

(c) whether any instructions/directions are issued to fill the backlog posts reserved for ,SCs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT(SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) to (b) Land and its management falls within the administrative jurisdiction of the State Governments as provided under Entry No. 18 of the State List (List II) of the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution. The role of the Central Government in this field is only of an advisory and coordinating nature. However, implementation of land reforms programmes is reviewed from time to time at various fora, including Conferences of the Revenue Ministers/Secretaries of States and UTs organized by the Ministry of Rural Development. The State Governments have, *inter-alia,* been requested from time to time for distribution of ceiling surplus land, Govt, waste land and Bhoodan land to the eligible rural poor by preparation of action plans, and to complete the task by undertaking special drives.

As per the information received from the States, on implementation of the land ceiling laws, an area of 68.59 lakh acres has been declared surplus, of which 59.98 lakh acres has been taken possession of, and 49.68 lakh acres has been distributed to 55.34 lakh beneficiaries,